

Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

65 4th Street, Garden City, NY 11530

Finding Aid for Bishop Walker Subject File

Date range: 1987-2015

CREATOR

Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

EXTENT

Linear Feet: 3.25 linear feet

Number of Containers: 7 banker boxes and 3 small boxes

ABSTRACT

A collection of subject files pertaining to Bishop Orris G. Walker (served 1991-2009). Contains correspondences, reports, economic information, recreational activities, commentary on news events, and ephemera. Part of a larger collection of subject files relative to bishops who served episcopacy for the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island.

LANGUAGES

English

REFERENCE CODE

SF-7

PROCESSING ARCHIVIST

Caroline Zhu, Head Archivist

Processed in 2025

Collection Details

Historical Note

Born on November 5th, 1942, in Baltimore, Maryland, Orris G. Walker graduated from the University of Maryland with a B.A in 1964. He received a Master of Divinity from the General Theological Seminary in 1968. In addition, he has earned a D. Min. from Drew University in 1980 and a M.A. from University of Windsor in 1984. Walker was ordained to the diaconate in 1968 and to the priesthood in 1969. He spent his early years serving in Baltimore and Kansas City. During this time, he married his wife Norma McKinney Dixon in 1971 and they went on to have two children, Richard Anthony and Angela Louise. In 1972 he became Rector at St. Matthew's & St. Joseph and served from 1974-1976 as Priest-in-Charge of St. Alban's in Highland Park, Michigan. Walker also was the Archdeacon of Region V of the Diocese of Michigan. Along with his service he also spent time serving the Episcopal Church on numerous boards, commissions, and agencies. In November of 1987 he was elected Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Long Island. He was ordained and consecrated in April 1988 and inducted as the Seventh Bishop of Long Island on January 5th, 1991. He is famously known for ordaining the first three women priest in the Diocese in February of 1989. He focused on promoting diversity and inclusion within the diocese and church as his leadership marked a change with him being the first Black Bishop of this Diocese. Walker died at the age of 72 on February 28th, 2015.

Scope & Content

Bishop Walker is the primary creator of the materials included in this collection. These materials come in the form of letters, reports, newsletters, newspaper clippings, press releases, billings, recreational documents, and ephemera. While Walker's episcopacy was held 1991-2009, the materials cover the period between 1987 and 2015. Many of the materials are relative to the Diocese of Long Island, thus the geographical provenance of many materials has connections to Long Island, Queens and/or Brooklyn. Examples of this may include church activities, personal interests and communications from the bishop, community involvement, and commentary on current events. However, some materials have been outsourced, particularly letters from various dioceses or institutions out-of-state or internationally.

Arrangement Description

This collection was processed at the collection-level; materials and individual items are categorized by folder. Each folder begins with letters "SF" for Subject Files. The initial number, 1-8, signaling which bishop the evidence pertains to. The numbers are attached to individual bishops in order of when they held their episcopacy. For example, 1 would be referring to The Rt. Rev. Abram Littlejohn and 8 would refer to The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano. The final number - separated by a period from the initial number - in two digits, referring to the collection or file itself. For example, a file titled '#SF-7.04' would be a specific subject file referring to items related to Bishop Orris Walker. The folders in the banker boxes are not categorized in any specific order; in terms of organization, these folders were left in the same order as they were when they were first received.

Related Materials

These subject files are part of a larger group of files pertaining to the bishops of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, which can be accessed by contacting its archivist. Other archives may

hold information on Bishop Sherman and his episcopacy, including (but not limited to) the Archives of the Episcopal Church at 107 Denson Drive, Austin, TX 78752.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The collection has been property of the Episcopal Diocese since its genesis

Subject Headings

This record series is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms:

PERSONS:

Orris G. Walker

ORGANIZATIONS:

Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

National Episcopal Cursillo

Meeting of Black Bishops

PLACES:

Cathedral of Incarnation

George Mercer School of Theology, Garden City, N.Y. (USA)

Kings County, N.Y. (USA)

Nassau County, N.Y. (USA)

Queens County, N.Y. (USA)

Suffolk County, N.Y. (USA)

SUBJECTS:

American civil rights movement

Art and religion

Diocesan history

Divorce—Episcopal Church

Economic councils—Episcopal Church

Episcopal Church—United States Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.

Faith

Libraries—Special collections—Religion

Marriage—Episcopal Church

Race relations—Episcopal Church

Racial justice—Episcopal Church

Religious articles

Religious life

Sexism in religion

Socialism in religion

Spiritual thought

Women and religion

Word (Theology)

Worship

Using the Collection

ACCESS STATEMENT

Collection access is available upon request.

RIGHTS STATEMENT

Copyright has not been assigned to the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island; see the archivist for more information. Copyright restrictions apply.

PREFERRED CITATION

[ITEM DESCRIPTION], Bishop Walker Subject Files 1987-2015,

Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, Garden City, New York

Collection Inventory

| FILE | ID | BOX |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Enthronement Video (1991) | #SF-7.01 | Box 1 |
| International Conference on Anglo-Africanism | #SF-7.02 | Box 1 |
| International Conference on Anglo-Africanism: Emails | #SF-7.03 | Box 1 |
| Photos of Ordination of Walker as Bp. Coadjutor | #SF-7.04 | Box 1 |
| Letter Dimissory Book (1988-2001) Transfer In | #SF-7.05 | Box 1 |
| Letter Dimissory Book (1988-2001) Transfer Out | #SF-7.06 | Box 1 |
| Health Care Center Dedicated Pen and Letter Opener | #SF-7.07 | Box 1 |
| Correspondence (1993-2008) | #SF-7.08 | Box 1 |
| Correspondence (1987-1992) | #SF-7.09 | Box 1 |
| Photos | #SF-7.10 | Box 1 |
| "Tidings" (1987-1991) | #SF-7.11 | Box 1 |
| Biographical Information | #SF-7.12 | Box 1 |
| 16 th Anniversary (2007) | #SF-7.13 | Box 1 |
| Obituaries (2015) | #SF-7.14 | Box 1 |
| Ordaining Women | #SF-7.15 | Box 1 |
| Penthouse Affairs (1997) | #SF-7.16 | Box 1 |
| The Rev. Jesse Jackson's Visit to the Cathedral of Incarnation (Dec. 12, 1993) | #SF-7.17 | Box 1 |
| Enthronement Materials (1991) | #SF-7.18 | Box 1 |
| Slides used in TV Presentation re. Consecration (1988) | #SF-7.19 | Box 1 |
| Consecration Materials | #SF-7.20 | Box 1 |
| Press Kit (April 9 th , 1988) | #SF-7.21 | Box 1 |
| Election of Bishop (1987-1988) | #SF-7.22 | Box 1 |
| Call for Bishop Coadjutor | #SF-7.23 | Box 1 |
| Clippings re. Election of Walker (1987) | #SF-7.24 | Box 1 |
| Clippings re. Consecration (1988) | #SF-7.25 | Box 1 |
| Clippings (1988-1990) | #SF-7.26 | Box 1 |
| Episcopal Act- Vicars | #SF-7.27 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Terminated Position | #SF-7.28 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Retired Clergy | #SF-7.29 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Resignation | #SF-7.30 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Renunciation, Depositions, etc | #SF-7.31 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Priest-in-Charge | #SF-7.32 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Parochial Medals | #SF-7.33 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Ordinations | #SF-7.34 | Box 2 |

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| Episcopal Act- Interim | #SF-7.35 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Institutions | #SF-7.36 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Incorporation, Mergers, Consecrations, Closings, & Status Change | #SF-7.37 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Elections | #SF-7.38 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Election of Rectors | #SF-7.39 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship | #SF-7.40 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Deceased Clergy | #SF-7.41 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Deceased Bishops | #SF-7.42 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Consecration of Bishops | #SF-7.43 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- clergy Licensed to Officiate | #SF-7.44 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act-Clergy Received into the Diocese | #SF-7.45 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Clergy Leaving Diocese | #SF-7.46 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Celebration of New Ministry | #SF-7.47 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Candidates & Postulants | #SF-7.48 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Assistants | #SF-7.49 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Assignments Completed | #SF-7.50 | Box 2 |
| Episcopal Act- Appointments | #SF-7.51 | Box 2 |
| New Ventures Event (2008) | #SF-7.52 | Box 3 |
| Invitations (2004-2008) | #SF-7.53 | Box 3 |
| Bp. Of Quincy & St. John's Protestant vs. St. John's Anglican (1995) | #SF-7.54 | Box 3 |
| Out of Diocese Announcements | #SF-7.55 | Box 3 |
| Pupil's Book One Study Course (1929 | #SF-7.56 | Box 3 |
| Frederick M. Reuss Certificate of Appreciation (2001) | #SF-7.57 | Box 3 |
| Correspondence (1995-2008) | #SF-7.58 | Box 3 |
| Shoe Box Project (2003) | #SF-7.59 | Box 3 |
| Meeting of Black Bishops (2002) | #SF-7.60 | Box 3 |
| Nations Episcopal Cursillo Meeting (2001) | #SF-7.61 | Box 3 |